Just a note to those HP tablet owners who experience the Black screen of death or sleep of death.

I am the proud owner of 4 HP tablets and two of them so far have had the black screen of death. I have read forum after forum trying to get answers to this problem. There was only one posting that has made cense to me. Someone posted that the tablets symptoms are very much like when the Phones use to go to sleep. The solution was to disconnect the battery for a few minutes then plug it back in. Then simply hit the hold the power button down to turn on the tablet.

The problem is taking the TP apart. There is a video on youtube on how to disassemble the tp. It is a little annoying that you have to go to such lengths to reset the hardware but HP will charge you 250 dollars to fix the problem. After you watch the video on how to open the TP, remove the 3 little screws holding the battery. Now slowly pry the battery up, they use double sided tape to hold it in place along with the screws. Wiggle the battery side to side and try to disconnect the battery connector. This can be done without removing the boards in the TP. Wait 1 min then try to replace the connector in the socket. It is on the underside of a board so when you have it in place use something to make sure it is tight. Plug the charger in to the USB cable. Without closing up the unit hold the tablet power button in until you get the battery charging symbol on the display. Let the unit charge while it is still disassembled. Just in case you have a problem. Once everything is operating disconnect to charger and replace the battery screws, now snap everything together.

This was the only way I was able to fix two of my four TP's. I am sure I will have to do this again because my kids always let the tablets go dead and they don't pay attention when placing them on the Stone for charging. If the tablet is not properly placed on the stone the tablet will not charge.

Hope this helps.

I realise this is an old thread, but I recently had a reoccurrence of the black screen of death issue and thought given the number of touchpads still out in the wild, I would share my experience on the off-chance it may help somebody.

My first experience of the black screen issue was a few months after having my touchpad (many years ago). The screen just went black and no combination of holding the reset keys for any period of time would restart the unit. I had suffered lock-ups before and found the reset combination to be successful, but this time none of that worked and I had effectively what appeared to be a dead unit.

Having contacted HP, I returned the unit under warranty and a unit was returned working. I say “a unit” as I was never quite sure if it was the same unit or a refurbed unit, but to be honest given the speed the units went out of stock during the fire sale, I was just glad to have a working unit again.

Well this week after several years of use including the installation of Android, the black screen occurred again. As before, no combination of the keys / holding for a period of time / pressing them a number of times etc had any effect. The unit was three quarters charged and I was using it up till the point the screen went black.

Given that the unit has no warranty and it was “dead” anyway, I decided to take it apart. Despite watching YouTube videos, this appeared to be more troublesome than I thought, but eventually I was in. Interestingly, the backlight on the screen was still lit, suggesting the unit was still powered. I did

consider disconnecting the battery, having removed the screws as per the previous poster, but mine seemed to be well and truly stuck down and I felt I may damage it prying it away from the base.

However, looking around inside the unit, I spotted what was clearly a surface mounted switch that faced upwards towards the back of the screen. Out of interest, I pressed on this switch with my finger nail and my unit powered off (shown by the backlight turning off). I then pressed the normal power switch and the unit powered up as normal. I have attached a photo of the switch which resides close to the popout tab with serial numbers on that can be found on the right hand side of the unit.

It does appear strange that HP put this “reset” button inside the unit, facing inwards rather than outwards where a small hole in the back of the case could be used to press it. So if you do get to the opening the case stage, consider this as an alternative to prying the battery loose. Also if somebody can work out a way to make the button accessible from outside the case it might be a useful modification.
Attached Thumbnails

Running tpdebrick.

Copy tplup to the tpdebrick-v004 folder.
Type chmod +x tplup
Type sudo ./tplup
This runs the scrip automaticly and stops it when you have a succesful instal

Get the TP to recovery mode (power & hold vol up - USB symbol) then use the TPToolbox from J C Sullins over at XDA ([TOOLS] Touchpad Toolbox | HP TouchPad | XDA Forums). The latest version is .42 released in Jan 15, but the main site is still showing the prior release. You can get the new one from his goo.im site (https://goo.im/devs/jcsullins/cmtouchpad/tptoolbox/) though or 'googling' for it. It also has a reflash of the A6 firmware although I haven't tried this.

It seems that your device is stuck either in bootie mode with everything erased (color pattern - your first post) or in DFU mode (emmc_appsboot) - your second post, blank screen

Can you check how your device is found in the device manager (this is for windows, i see you have mac)
If your TouchPad is in bootie mode than you will see this in device manager Palm Novacom Modules -> Palm Novacom (bootie)
If your TouchPad is in DFU than In Windows should be something like this Palm Novacom Modules -> Device Firmware Upgrade ("Device Firmware Upgrade" name depends on the drivers you have used and which were installed when TouchPad first time entered DFU mode, drivers can be from online search or local drivers, if you used local drivers can be also libusb .....)

If you device is in bootie than you can doctor Touchpad as before or flash it with NDI, i guess if doctor will not suceed this time you will have to use NDI

If in DFU mode you should write boot.bin (boot-topaz.bin) to TouchPad by typing
dfu-util.exe -D boot-topaz.bin
(you can get boot-topaz.bin from webos doctor
- webosdoctorp305hstnhwifi.jar (rename it to zip and open), than open another archive called webOS.tar and extract boot-topaz.bin to local folder where you will run dfu-util.exe
After executing dfu-util.exe -D boot-topaz.bin and sucesfully writing boot-topaz.bin to your device you will see Palm Novacom Modules -> Palm Novacom (bootie) in the device manager
the "strange screen" you are referring in your post should will be gone
- Than you can doctor Touchpad as before or flash it with NDI, i guess if doctor will not suceed this time you will have to use NDI

You can also check what is going on by entering command line on computer, going in to C:\Program Files\Palm, Inc\
and typing novacom -t open tty:// if it will connect than it is sure in bootie mode (even if the screen is blank, can happen)
you can than type printenv and post here, version will list your bootie version

It can also be hardware fault (like bad memory), you will need to have debug boot.bin in your device to see output on the device screen
Now you can also check how device will perform by membooting from command line C:\Program Files\Palm, Inc\
novacom boot mem:// < nova-installer-image-topaz.uImage

and than typing novacom -t open tty:// to see where exactly your device is

nova-installer-image-topaz.uImage is also inside webosdoctor, you can copy it out from jar at the same time as boot-topaz.bin

I had lots of trouble with mine and not wanting to come on after a year or two, I had to try different button press combo’s and sometimes the touch stone charger, I got tired of it and removed the battery and powered it externally, I told someone else how I did that, here is the text from that post:

Its a little hard to do, but the touchpad can be hard wired to power and the battery removed, but two problems, one is that the touchpad is very hard to take

apart and put back together, the other is some soldering skills are needed along with a power supply, I used a LM2596 DC-DC converter and a DC wall adapter.

I removed the battery, desoldered the two battery wires from the control board, and soldered two wires from the battery control board to the LM2596 DC-DC converter, I have the LM2596 DC-DC converter set to 5v, I also ran another 5v+ wire from the LM2596 DC-DC converter to the USB connector, I ran this extra wire so the touchpad believes the battery is charging, if not the touchpad will try and shutdown because it thinks your battery is draining.

I removed some of the foil under the battery and had problems, the foil is a ground so don't remove it, also a fully charged battery was showing 4v so I believe 5v should be safe, but battery has 3.7v printed on it, so this may cause problems someday, it might be a good idea to drop the voltage a little on the power wire going to the battery controller, maybe a voltage divider, or regulator, I am no electronics expert, but my touchpad has been on for four weeks with no problems without dropping the voltage, another problem is that I broke most of the plastic clips holding the touchpad together so I just used black electrical tape to hold it together.

Here is a tear down link if needed
https://www.ifixit.com/Guide/HP+TouchPad+Battery+Replacement/6082

If anyone is wondering why, the reason is I have the tablet mounted on a monitor arm and use it as a media player and radio for my workshop.

Unfortunately I don't know of any guides, but its somewhat simple, the only big problems I had on the touchpad were that even with the battery removed and constant power connected the touchpad still believed the battery was discharging and after some time the touchpad would force shutdown so you have to also fool the tablet into thinking its charging, thats why I ran a 5v wire to the USB connector, that might also come in handy for powering USB devices, thats the hardest part, soldering to the very small USB connector, I cheated a little and removed the USB connector board, then connected it to a USB charger and tested with a volt meter to see were 5v was located on the USB connector board, there were a few places that were showing 5v, I just picked the easiest on to solder to, for me it was on the underside of the USB connector board,

This is the LM2596 DC-DC converter I used, its not the best but its cheap and seems to work well

www.amazon.com/RioRand-LM2596-Converter-1-23V-30V-Pcs-LM2596/dp/B008BHB4L8

If the LM2596 DC-DC converter starts running extra hot, I have not had that happen yet, you could add a heatsink like this LM2596 DC-DC converter has.

www.amazon.com/Retailstore-LM2596-Adjustable-Supply-Converter/dp/B009HPB1OI

I am running Android, some version of Evervolv, I had some problems booting when the touchpad still had a battery, the touchpad would sometimes spontaneously reboot or go to sleep, and then act like its dead, and you have to try a bunch of different button combos or use the touchstone charger to bring it back to life, also sometimes the battery would discharge even with the USB charger connected and you wold have to use the touchstone charger to recharge the battery.

With the battery removed the touchpad has had once or twice that its acted like it was dead, but unplugging and replugging the power forces a reboot so its much more simplified than trying the button combos or the touchstone charger.

So make sure that you have Ubutu 12.10 64bit version on a 64bit capable computer (I tried on one that wasn't so it failed miserably and wasted 2 days)

The instructions from TPDebrick v004 - HP Touchpad - RootzWiki were fine, but I'll provide simplified ones (with parts borrowed from the Rootzwiki) here that worked for me..

1) get a computer and put in a spare blank hard drive and install Ubuntu 12.10 64bit version as a fresh install.
Download Ubuntu Desktop | Ubuntu

MAKE SURE that you get the 64 version (and have a computer that is 64bit capable)

Let it run it's updates, drivers install, etc... this can take a few hours.

2) The fastboot and such tools... (THIS is where I had to look everywhere for the solution, which is stupidly simple).

In Ubuntu, go to Software, software center, look for android-tools, and you'll find **Fastboot protocol CLI tool.**
In ubuntu, go to Software software center, look for android-tools, and you'll find Fastboot protocol CLI tool.

If you haven't done this, it's not going to work, until you do.Install it.

3) Download tpdebrick-v004 from the URL: http://d-h.st/NET **ANOTHER NEW LINK!!!!!!!!!! and unzip it,** saving it to an easy to find folder, such as the download one. You may do this on other machine and unzip it on that machine, then copy the files over to the Ubuntu machine.

4) Click "Dash Home" (icon in top left corner of screen)
Type in "Terminal"
Click on the "Terminal" icon
Click in the "Terminal" window

5) Run "cd Downloads" (or "cd xxxxx" to the folder where the tpdebrick file is)

either
Run "unzip tpdebrick-v004" to unzip if you still didn't do it as per step 3

then

or if the files are already unzipped

Run "cd tpdebrick-v004"

6) Connect Touchpad and Hold Power+Home+VolDown buttons on Touchpad for 30 seconds

7) Run "script" (this will capture the output of the tpdebrick process)

8) Run

"sudo ./tpdebrick 16" for a 16GB Touchpad
or
"sudo ./tpdebrick 32" for a 32GB Touchpad

And things should start happening.

This will only work if you did the "cd xxxx" to the right folder.

9) give it a while... it can take a good ten minutes, and if done right, you'll have a "All done" message.

If the process hangs for more than 5 minutes, you can abort the process by pressing Ctrl-\ (Ctrl key and key with '|' above '\').

10) Run "exit" (this will stop the output capture started with "script")

11) Charge your Touchpad, within a certain amount of time (depending on how dead your battery was) you should get the flashing of the home button, and eventually the low battery screen until it charges enough to reset itself and boot.

Probably your issue might be that you never unzipped the tpdebrick file or running the sudo from the wrong folder?

I found a web page http://kb.hpwebos.com/wps/portal/kb/...en.html#N100F3
that said to charge a HP touchpad that is dead you follow these steps:
1 Hold power button and push home button 10 times. This put the Touchpad into a low power mode.
2 Now Hold the volume up and the power buttons until the battery icon and plug symbol show up (10 seconds) plug your touchpad in with the wall charger.

Charge the device until it powers up. (I am at this point right now and will update after it powers on. If it powers on.

UPDATE*

It worked. After 3 hours it booted up and is fine now. WOW

HP Touchpad dual boot webOS and CyanogenMod9 was left unplugged and battery died while running the Android OS. It would not power on or charge. The above steps worked to fix it.

Seems most everyone should be able to just reflash their firmware to fix it without the need for openeing it up for a LiPO charge, unless jcsullins diagnostic reveals your battery is completey dead.

Symptoms should include:
1. dead TP
2. when connected to USB on windows a PALM ? device in device manager when HOME + Vol UP is pressed

after plugging in
2. when connected to USB on windows a QUSB_DLOAD device in device manager when HOME + Vol DOWN is pressed after plugging in

12v Car Jumpstarter Pack <---------> Turnigy Accucell 6 LiPO Charger (link on page 1) (settings 2.2 A (default), CHG (default) Auto - charge for 1 hr or when it says completed. LiPO 1s (default). < -------> Touchpad battery (connect 2 red bell wire to red terminals twist together on other end and 2 black bell wires to black terminals, twist together at other end). The other ends go to LiPO Charger. As they mention on page 1 the cells in the battery are in parallel.

Place TP battery in a metal tray (make sure connector is outside of the metal tray, don't want a short) or firesafe box and keep an eye on it all times. Do this at your own risk! (make sure you have some basic electrical know how). the recommended lipo charger seems to have some cool safety features (i.e. it won't charge if leads are loose or if battery doesn't check out to be OK). Mine went from 2.6v to about 3.9-4.0v after about an hour and that's where I stopped. It had enough juice to complete the de-bricking process of jcsullins

From what we know most people do NOT need to externally charge the battery. @jcsullins will tell you from teh log if it's even needed to remove/swap/charge batery. To get the battery out I followed the Ifixit guide

''I had this issue as well. Open software manager or what ever it is and go edit and then software sources. The second check box that ends in "universe" needs to be checked. Then run "sudo apt-get update" and then "apt-get install dfu-util" and try step 5 again. Also you'll want to make sure your using a 64 bit version of Ubuntu for a later step.
''https://help.ubuntu.com/community/Repositories
https://help.ubuntu.com/community/Repositories/Ubuntu#Adding_Repositories_in_Ubuntu

you need to run apt-get install with root privilege
sudo apt-get install dfu-util

- from Webosdoctor 3.0.5 file is webosdoctorp305hstnhwifi.jar extract nova-installer-image-topaz.uImage file
- first rename webosdoctorp305hstnhwifi.jar to webosdoctorp305hstnhwifi.zip to be able to open it with windows as ZIP archive
nova-installer-image-topaz.uImage is inside webosdoctorp305hstnhwifi.zip archive in folder resources, there is a file webOS.tar, open it (if Windows will not be able to open TAR archive, install WinRar or Total Commander) and you will see nova-installer-image-topaz.uImage
- now copy nova-installer-image-topaz.uImage to c:\Program Files\Palm, Inc\ (you will probably need administrative account to do that, if this is a problem, just firstly copy everything from c:\Program Files\Palm, Inc\ to let we say c:\Palm\ and than copy nova-installer-image-topaz.uImage to there

Battery should have at least some power (charged for a long time)
1. make a reset of device (holding home button + power, till the device will reset),
2. put device in to recovery mode (volume up + power) - you should see it on the screen, if no power it will not happen
3. connect device to computer
4. start command prompt (type cmd in search) and navigate (cd Program Files than cd Palm, Inc, you can type just cd Pro (first few letters) than press TAB and it will fill the rest for you, same for other subfolders) to c:\Program Files\Palm, Inc\ (novacom should be installed first to have this folder, previously running a doctor or novacominstaller will do the trick)
5. now type novacom boot mem:// < nova-installer-image-topaz.uImage
6. device should memboot and you will see HP logo on it
7. move to c:\Program Files\Palm, Inc\terminal and type novaterm, Novaterm will open, than File -> connect (chose on long number, device ID) and you will see a prompt
root@webos-device:/#
8. now type PmA6Updater -a
you should see something like this (versions can be diferent as this info if from from TP Go)
processing file: /lib/firmware/a6_firmware.txt.00
A6 device: /dev/a6_0
2.13.28 (0x020d001c)
fw file size: 43975
fw file mapped at: 0x2ac7e000
Firmware update complete

processing file: /lib/firmware/a6_firmware.txt.01
A6 device: /dev/a6_1
2.7.27 (0x0207001b)
fw file size: 30849
fw file mapped at: 0x2aae5000
Firmware update complete
9. if you will see 2 messages with information that Firmware update is complete, just restart device (reset - holding home button + power, till the device will reset, guess hold for 10-15 sekunds) and battery symbol + question mark should be gone now